

- a plurality of stitch bonding yarns repeatedly extending through the felt web with yarn segments extending across both the upper and lower surfaces of the felt web such that the yarn segments extending across the felt web upper surface cooperate to form a top yarn face above the felt web upper surface and the yarn segments extending across the felt web lower surface cooperate to form a bottom yarn face below the felt web lower surface.
- 5 2. The stitch bonded fabric of claim 1 further comprising a scrim layer interposed between one of the surfaces of the felt web and the yarn segments extending thereacross.
- 10 3. The facing fabric of claim 1 wherein the yarn segments extending across the felt web upper surface form underlaps.
- 15 4. The facing fabric of claim 3 wherein the yarn segments extending across the felt web lower surface form overlaps.
- 15 5. The facing fabric of claim 1 wherein the yarn segments extending across the felt web lower surface form overlaps.
- 20 6. The facing fabric of claim 1 wherein the yarns are stitched in a flat stitch construction across the felt web upper surface.
- 25 7. The facing fabric of claim 1 wherein the yarns are stitched in a loop knit construction across the felt web upper surface to define a plurality of yarn loops in the top yarn face.
- 25 8. The facing fabric of claim 1 wherein the yarns are hydrophobic.
- 25 9. The facing fabric of claim 1 wherein the yarns are hydrophilic.
- 30 10. The facing fabric of claim 1 wherein the yarns are continuous filaments.
- 30 11. The facing fabric of claim 1 wherein the yarns are spun yarn.
- 30 12. A stitch bonded facing fabric comprising:
- 35 a felt web having a hydrophobic upper aspect extending from an upper surface of the web and a hydrophilic lower aspect extending from a lower surface of the web; and
- 40 a plurality of stitch bonding yarns repeatedly extending through the felt web with yarn segments extending across both the upper and lower surfaces of the felt web such that the yarn segments extending across the felt web upper surface cooperate to form a top yarn face above the felt web upper surface and the yarn segments extending across the felt web lower surface cooperate to form a bottom yarn face below the felt web lower surface.
- 45 13. The stitch bonded fabric of claim 12 further comprising a scrim layer interposed between one of the surfaces of the felt web and the yarn segments extending thereacross.
- 50 14. The facing fabric of claim 12 wherein the yarn segments extending across the felt web upper surface form underlaps.
- 55 15. The facing fabric of claim 14 wherein the yarn segments extending across the felt web lower surface form overlaps.
- 55 16. The facing fabric of claim 12 wherein the yarn segments extending across the felt web lower surface form overlaps.
- 60 17. The facing fabric of claim 12 wherein the yarns are stitched in a flat stitch construction across the felt web upper surface.
- 65 18. The facing fabric of claim 12 wherein the yarns are stitched in a loop knit construction across the felt web upper surface to define a plurality of yarn loops in the fabric top.
- 65 19. The facing fabric of claim 12 wherein the yarns are hydrophobic.

20. The facing fabric of claim 12 wherein the yarns are hydrophilic.
21. The facing fabric of claim 12 wherein the yarns are continuous filaments.
22. The facing fabric of claim 12 wherein the yarns are spun yarn. 5
23. A fluid-retaining fabric comprising:
a stitch bonded facing fabric having a first layer of hydrophobic felt, a second layer of hydrophilic felt being adjacent to the first layer so as to define a felt web 10 having an upper surface defined by an upper side of the first layer and a lower surface defined by a lower side of the second layer, and a plurality of stitch bonding yarns repeatedly extending through the felt web with 15 yarn segments extending across both the upper and lower surfaces of the felt web such that the yarn segments extending across the felt web upper surface cooperate to form a top yarn face above the felt web upper surface and the yarn segments extending across

- the felt web lower surface cooperate to form a bottom
yarn face below the felt web lower surface; and
a barrier layer attached to the bottom yarn face.
24. The fluid-retaining fabric of claim 23 further com-
5 prising adhesive attaching the barrier layer to the bottom
yarn face.
25. The fluid-retaining fabric of claim 23 wherein the first
and second felt layers are needle punched into a single felt
web.
- 10 26. The fluid-retaining fabric of claim 23 wherein the
barrier layer includes a fluid barrier ply and a fabric ply.
27. The fluid-retaining fabric of claim 26 wherein the
barrier ply is attached to the bottom yarn face.
28. The fluid-retaining fabric of claim 23 wherein the
barrier layer includes a fluid barrier ply.
- 15 29. The fluid-retaining fabric of claim 23 further com-
prising edge stitching attaching the barrier layer to the
bottom yarn face.

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30. A stitch bonded facing fabric comprising:
a felt web having an upper surface and a lower surface; and
a plurality of stitch bonding yarns repeatedly extending through the felt web with yarn
segments extending across both the upper and lower surfaces of the felt web such that the yarn
5 segments extending across the felt web upper surface cooperate to form a top yarn face above the
felt web upper surface and the yarn segments extending across the felt web lower surface
cooperate to form a bottom yarn face below the felt web lower surface.

31. The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 30 further comprising a scrim layer interposed
10 between one of the surfaces of the felt web and the yarn segments extending thereacross.

32. The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 30 wherein the yarn segments extending across
the felt web upper surface form underlaps.

15 33. The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 32 wherein the yarn segments extending across
the felt web lower surface form overlaps.

34. The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 30 wherein the yarn segments extending across
the felt web lower surface form overlaps.

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35. The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 30 wherein the yarns are stitched in a flat stitch
construction across the felt web upper surface.

36. The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 30 wherein the yarns are stitched in a loop knit construction across the felt web upper surface to define a plurality of yarn loops in the fabric top.

37. The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 30, the felt web including first and second felt layers being adjacent to one another to define the felt web, the upper surface of the web being defined by an upper side of the first felt layer, the lower surface of the web being defined by a lower side of the second felt layer, the stitch bonded yarns extending through both felt layers.

38. The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 30 wherein the yarns are hydrophilic.
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39. An incontinent pad comprising:

a stitch bonded facing fabric having a felt web having an upper surface and a lower surface and a plurality of stitch bonding yarns repeatedly extending though the felt web with yarn segments extending across both the upper and lower surfaces of the felt web such that the yarn segments extending across the felt web upper surface cooperate to form a top yarn face above the felt web upper surface and the yarn segments extending across the felt web lower surface cooperate to form a bottom yarn face below the felt web lower surface; and

a barrier layer joined to the facing fabric so as to confront the bottom yarn face of the facing fabric.
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140. The incontinent pad of claim 39 further comprising adhesive attaching the barrier layer to the bottom yarn face.

5 41. The incontinent pad of claim 39 further comprising edge stitching attaching the barrier layer to the bottom yarn face.

10 42. The incontinent pad of claim 39 wherein the barrier layer includes a fluid barrier ply and a fabric ply.

15 43. The incontinent pad of claim 39, the felt web of the stitch bonded facing fabric including first and second felt layers being adjacent to one another to define the felt web, the upper surface of the web being defined by an upper side of the first felt layer, the lower surface of the web being defined by a lower side of the second felt layer, the stitch bonded yarns extending through both felt layers.

20 44. The incontinent pad stitch of claim 39 further comprising a scrim layer in the stitch bonded facing fabric and being interposed between one of the surfaces of the felt web and the yarn segments extending thereacross.

25 45. The incontinent pad of claim 44, the scrim layer being interposed between the felt web lower surface and the yarn segments extending thereacross.

46. The incontinent pad of claim 39 wherein the yarn segments extending across the felt web upper surface of the stitch bonded facing fabric form underlaps.

5 47. The incontinent pad of claim 39 wherein the yarn segments extending across the felt web lower surface of the stitch bonded facing fabric form overlaps.

48. The incontinent pad of claim 39 wherein the yarns of the stitch bonded facing fabric are stitched in a flat stitch construction across the felt web upper surface.

10 49. The incontinent pad of claim 39 wherein the yarns of the stitch bonded facing fabric are stitched in a loop knit construction across the felt web upper surface to define a plurality of yarn loops in the fabric top.

15 50. The incontinent pad of claim 39 wherein the yarns of the stitch bonded facing fabric are hydrophobic.

51. A fluid retaining fabric comprising:

a felt web having an upper surface and a lower surface, the felt being adapted to retain fluid therein; and

20 a plurality of stitch bonding yarns repeatedly extending through the felt web with yarn segments extending across both the upper and lower surfaces of the felt web such that the yarn segments extending across the felt web upper surface cooperate to form a top yarn face above the

felt web upper surface and the yarn segments extending across the felt web lower surface
cooperate to form a bottom yarn face below the felt web lower surface, the stitch bonding yarns
being hydrophobic whereby to assist in wicking fluid into the felt web.

5 52. The fluid retaining fabric of claim 51 further comprising a scrim layer interposed between
one of the surfaces of the felt web and the yarn segments extending thereacross.

10 53. The fluid retaining fabric of claim 51 wherein the yarn segments extending across the felt
web upper surface form underlaps.

54. The fluid retaining fabric of claim 51 wherein the yarn segments extending across the felt
web lower surface form overlaps.

15 55. The fluid retaining fabric of claim 51 wherein the yarns are stitched in a flat stitch
construction across the felt web upper surface.

56. The fluid retaining fabric of claim 51 wherein the yarns are stitched in a loop knit
construction across the felt web upper surface to define a plurality of yarn loops in the fabric top.

20 57. The fluid retaining fabric of claim 51 wherein the yarns are continuous filaments.

58. A stitch bonded facing fabric comprising:

a first layer of felt having hydrophobic properties and further having an outer surface; and

a plurality of stitch bonding yarns repeatedly extending through the first layer of felt with

yarn segments extending across the outer surface of the layer of felt, such that the yarn segments

5 extending across the felt layer outer surface cooperate to form a yarn face above the felt layer
outer surface.

59. The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 58 further comprising a second layer of felt

adjacent the first layer and having the stitch bonding yarns repeatedly extending therethrough.

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60. The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 58 further comprising a scrim layer interposed
between the felt layer outer surface and the yarn segments extending thereacross.

15 The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 58 wherein the yarn segments extending across
the felt web outer surface form underlaps.

62. The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 58 wherein the yarns are stitched in a flat stitch
construction across the felt web outer surface.

20 The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 58 wherein the yarns are stitched in a loop knit
construction across the felt web outer surface to define a plurality of yarn loops.

64. The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 58 wherein the yarns are hydrophobic.
65. A stitch bonded facing fabric comprising:
5 a first layer of felt having hydrophilic properties and further having an outer surface; and
 a plurality of stitch bonding yarns repeatedly extending through the first layer of felt with
 yarn segments extending across the outer surface of the layer of felt, such that the yarn segments
 extending across the felt layer outer surface cooperate to form a yarn face above the felt layer
 outer surface.
- 10 66. The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 65 further comprising a second layer of felt
 adjacent the first layer and having the stitch bonding yarns repeatedly extending therethrough.
- 15 67. The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 65 further comprising a scrim layer interposed
 between the felt layer outer surface and the yarn segments extending thereacross.
68. The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 65 wherein the yarn segments extending across
 the felt web outer surface form overlaps.
69. The stitch bonded facing fabric of claim 65 wherein the yarns are hydrophobic.

70. An incontinent pad comprising:

a facing fabric including a first layer of felt having hydrophobic properties and further
having an outer surface, and a plurality of stitch bonding yarns repeatedly extending through the
first layer of felt with yarn segments extending across the outer surface of the layer of felt, such
5 that the yarn segments extending across the felt layer outer surface cooperate to form a yarn face
above the felt layer outer surface; and

a barrier layer joined to the facing fabric.

71. The incontinent pad of claim 70, the facing fabric further including a second layer of felt
10 adjacent the first layer and having the stitch bonding yarns repeatedly extending therethrough.

72. The incontinent pad of claim 70 further comprising adhesive attaching the barrier layer to
the facing fabric.

15 73. The fluid-retaining fabric of claim 70 further comprising edge stitching attaching the
barrier layer to the facing fabric.

74. The incontinent pad of claim 70 wherein the barrier layer includes a fluid barrier ply and
a fabric ply.

75. The incontinent pad stitch of claim 70 further comprising a scrim layer in the facing fabric and being interposed between the felt web outer layer and the yarn segments extending thereacross.

5 76. The incontinent pad of claim 70 wherein the yarn segments extending across the felt web outer surface of the facing fabric form underlaps.

77. The incontinent pad of claim 70 wherein the yarns of the facing fabric are stitched in a flat stitch construction across the felt web outer surface.

10 78. The incontinent pad of claim 70 wherein the yarns of the facing fabric are stitched in a loop knit construction across the felt web outer surface to define a plurality of yarn loops.

79. The incontinent pad of claim 70 wherein the yarns of the facing fabric are hydrophobic.

15 80. An incontinent pad comprising:
a facing fabric including a first layer of felt having hydrophilic properties and further
having an outer surface, and a plurality of stitch bonding yarns repeatedly extending through the
first layer of felt with yarn segments extending across the outer surface of the layer of felt, such
20 that the yarn segments extending across the felt layer outer surface cooperate to form a yarn face
above the felt layer outer surface; and
a barrier layer joined to the facing fabric.

81. The incontinent pad of claim 80, the facing fabric further including a second layer of felt adjacent the first layer and having the stitch bonding yarns repeatedly extending therethrough.

5 82. The incontinent pad of claim 80 further comprising adhesive attaching the barrier layer to the facing fabric.

10 83. The fluid-retaining fabric of claim 80 further comprising edge stitching attaching the barrier layer to the facing fabric.

15 84. The incontinent pad of claim 80 wherein the barrier layer includes a fluid barrier ply and a fabric ply.

85. The incontinent pad stitch of claim 80 further comprising a scrim layer in the facing fabric and being interposed between the felt web outer layer and the yarn segments extending thereacross.

86. The incontinent pad of claim 80 wherein the yarn segments extending across the felt web outer surface of the facing fabric form overlaps.

87. The incontinent pad of claim 80 wherein the yarns of the facing fabric are hydrophobic.